

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /129 W

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R 261807Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1774

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

S E C R E T USNATO 4537

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-81

TAGS: MCAP, CA, NATO

SUBJECT: CANADIAN DEFENSE PROPOSALS

REF: USNATO 4476; STATE 190675

SUMMARY: DPC AGREED ON SEPTEMBER 26 TO NOTE COMPLETION OF CONSULTATION PROCEDURES ON CANADIAN DEFENSE PROPOSALS AS ANNOUNCED BY CANADA TO THE DPC ON SEPTEMBER 5, SUBJECT TO CONTINUING CONSULTATION AND MONITORING WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ANNUAL DEFENSE PLANNING REVIEW. PROPOSALS REMAIN CLASSIFIED SECRET PENDING EXPECTED PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AROUND OCTOBER 10 BY GOC. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING FURTHER EVALUATION OF CANADIAN DEFENSE PROPOSALS BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE (MCM-62-73) THE DPC AGREED TO NOTE THAT: A. CONSULTATION HAD TAKEN PLACE ON THE REVISED CANADIAN DEFENSE PROGRAM.

B. AIM OF PROGRAM IS TO INCREASE RESOURCES DEVOTED TO CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, BUT SHOULD INFLATION SERIOUSLY IMPINGE
SECRET

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ON MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAM, IT WOULD BE REASONABLE TO EXPECT THERE WOULD BE CAUSE FOR FURTHER REVIEW.

C. APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION WILL TAKE PLACE WITH MAJOR

NATO COMMANDERS ON THE PROPOSED EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION PROGRAM.

D. PROPOSED QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE CHANGES OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE MONITORED AND REPORTED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ANNUAL DEFENSE PLANNING REVIEW.

2. U.K. (PECK) OFFERED THE ONLY COMMENTS. HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAD MADE ITS NEW ASSESSMENT AND WELCOMED THE ASSURANCES THAT IF INFLATION OVERTOOK THE SEVEN PERCENT ANNUAL INCREASE IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET, THIS WOULD BE CAUSE FOR A FURTHER REVIEW. HE NOTED THAT THE FOUR DESTROYERS IN QUESTION WERE NOT AS OLD AS MANY OTHER VESSELS IN THE ALLIANCE AND HOPED THAT CANADA WOULD NOT SEE FIT TO DISPOSE OF THEM OUTSIDE THE ALLIANCE. IN CONCLUDING, HE COMMENTED ON THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH CONSULTATIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE AND HOPED THAT FUTURE CASES MIGHT ALLOW MORE ADEQUATE TIME.

3. IN REPLY, CANADA (MENZIES) POINTED TO THE FACT THAT CM-55-82 PROVIDED FOR CONSIDERATION OF "IMPORTANT QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE CHANGES" IN CURRENT OR PROSPECTIVE FORCE CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATO, AT SUCH TIMES AS WOULD MAKE IT IMPRACTICAL TO CONSIDER UNDER NORMAL REVIEW PROCEDURES. CANADA CONSIDERED ITS PROPOSED FORCE CHANGES AS OF MARGINAL IMPORTANCE BUT HAD NEVERTHELESS CONSULTED SO AS NOT TO ESTABLISH AN ADVERSE PRECEDENT. THE DPC SHOULD HAVE SOME CONSIDERATION FOR SIZE AND IMPORTANCE OF CHANGES; SMALL CHANGES WOULD SUGGEST A DIFFERENT TIME FRAME THAN MAJOR CHANGES.

4. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROPOSALS IS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN OTTAWA AROUND OCTOBER 10. UNTIL THAT TIME MENZIES REQUESTED ALL DETAILS REMAIN CLASSIFIED SECRET.
MCAULIFFE

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO04537
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS 12-31-81
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730962/abqcecgd.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 4476; STATE 190675
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADIAN DEFENSE PROPOSALS
TAGS: MCAP, CA, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

